

Appl. No. 10/658,507; Filed: September 9, 2003
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Amendments to the Claims:

1-49. (Canceled)

50. (New) A prosthesis for the replacement of at least a portion of the bone of a facet located on a mammalian vertebra, comprising: a surface that articulates with another facet surface; a fixation portion that is configured for implantation into an interior bone space of said vertebra, said surface being connected to said fixation portion.

51. (New) The device of claim 50 wherein said fixation portion is a post that is adapted to be fitted into the interior bone space of a pedicle.

52. (New) The device of claim 51 wherein said post is porous coated to allow for bone ingrowth.

53. (New) The device of claim 52 wherein said porous coating includes osteoconductive or osteoinductive substances.

54. (New) The device of claim 50 wherein said surface that articulates is comprised of one of a group consisting of a polymeric bearing material attached to a metal substrate, a ceramic bearing material, and a metal bearing material.